

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5149

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 3988

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PE, US

SUBJ: PERUVIAN CONGRATULATIONS TO VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS

REF: LIMA 3855

1. AT HIS REQUEST I SAW FOREIGN OFFICE ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL JOSE DE LA PUENTE LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON (MAY 14). DE LA PUENTE SAID THAT HE HAD TAKEN OUR PROTEST UP WITH PRESIDENT VELASCO WHO WAS ANNOYED BY ITS TONE BUT DECIDED NOT TO MAKE ANY REPLY TO IT UNLESS WE INSISTED ON PURSUING THE MATTER FURTHER IN WRITTEN FORM.

2. DE LA PUENTE SAID THAT BOTH HE AND THE PRESIDENT FELT THAT THE MEETINGS BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA FLOR IN WASHINGTON HAD PROVIDED AMPLE OPPORTUNITY FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF OUR CONCERN AT APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL. ACCORDING TO REPORTS DE LA PUENTE HAD RECEIVED, THE SECRETARY HAD RAISED THIS MATTER AS WELL AS THE GENERALLY NEGATIVE TREATMENT OF THE US IN THE PERUVIAN PRESS, BUT CONVERSATIONS WERE CORDIAL AND GENERALLY FOCUSED ON EFFORTS TO IMPROVE US RELATIONS WITH PERU AND THE HEMISPHERE IN GENERAL.

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3. I TOLD DE LA PUENTE THAT I THOUGHT THE MATTER WOULD

NOT BE PURSUED IN WRITTEN FORM. OUR POINT HAD NOW BEEN MADE AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE GOP. I SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT GOP TAKE NOTE THAT ANTI-US STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS BY PERU'S "NEW PRESS" AND BY MEMBERS OF THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT DO NOT GO UNNOTICED IN IMPORTANT USG AND PRIVATE CIRCLES AND IN FACT HAVE GIVEN RISE TO CONSIDERABLE CONCERN. I REFERRED TO STATEMENTS RECENTLY MADE BY SINAMOS HEAD CARLOS DELGADO, BY MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINES FERNANDEZ MALDONADO AND OTHER PLACING THE US IN THE CATEGORY OF AN ENEMY OF THE PERUVIAN REVOLUTION AND RUNNING DOWN THE US BANKING, INVESTMENT AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY AT THE VERY TIME THAT PERU IS LOOKING FOR MORE LOANS, MORE INVESTMENT, MORE TECHNOLOGY, MORE BUSINESS AND MORE ASSISTANCE FROM ABROAD. I ADDED THAT THESE STATEMENTS CANNOT HELP BUT HAVE SOME NEGATIVE IMPACT ON INVESTMENT, LENDING AND EVEN USG DECISIONS. AT THE SAME TIME THAT THIS EMBASSY, THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND OTHER MINISTRIES ARE WORKING ON PROGRAMS TO MAINTAIN AND EXPAND OUT BILATERAL COOPERATION, CERTAIN PERUVIAN OFFICIALS ARE MAKING STATEMENTS THAT PLACE CONSTRAINTS ON THIS COOPERATION AND MAKE OUR TASK MORE DIFFICULT. I TOLD DE LA PUENTE THAT THAT WAS WHY I HAD URGED THAT COMMERCE MINISTER ARIAS GRAZIANI VISIT NEW YORK AS WELL AS WASHINGTON ON HIS SWING THROUGH THE US FOLLOWING HIS EUROPEAN TRIP. BY SEEING THE RIGHT PEOPLE AND SAYING THE RIGHT THINGS HE COULD DO MUCH TO OFFSET THE BAD IMPRESSIONS CREATED BY THESE STATEMENTS AND TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT AS TO GOP VIEWS AND INTENTIONS.

4. DE LA PUENTE ASSURED ME THAT TOP GOP OFFICIALS ARE NOW AWARE OF THE PROBLEM AND HAVE BEGUN TO DEAL WITH IT BY SENDING NEW REGULATIONS TO ALL MINISTRIES INSTRUCTING ALL BUT THE VERY TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO REFRAIN FROM POLITICAL PRONOUNCEMENTS AND TO STICK TO TECHNICAL MATTERS RELATED TO THEIR OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS IN THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS. HE ADDED THAT THE EFFECT OF THIS SHOULD BE TO PLACE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR POLITICAL PRONOUNCEMENTS IN THE HANDS OF APPROPRIATE MINISTERS, THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PRESIDENT.

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5. IN RESPONSE TO MY SPECIFIC QUESTION, DE LA PUENTE GAVE ME ABSOLUTE ASSURANCES THAT THE RECENT DECISION TO EX-PROPRIATE GULF OIL OF PERU HAD NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH OUR TWO PROTESTS OF LAST WEEK. HE SAID THE DECISION TO TAKE A STAND ON MORAL GROUNDS ON THE GULF ISSUE WAS REACHED AROUND THE 2ND OF MAY WHEN THE GOP FIRST LEARNED OF THE REPORTS OF GULF MISDEEDS IN THE HEMISPHERE. HE SAID HE WAS SURE OF THIS BECAUSE HIS LEGAL TALENTS

HAD BEEN ENLISTED EARLY ON TO HELP DRAW UP THE DECREE
THAT WAS EVENTUALLY ISSUED TO CONSUMMATE THIS EX-
PROPRIATION.
DEAN

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